

October 13, 1951.

Dear Dave and Gabe:

Thank you very much for your gifts of antiserum, and you copy of W-45. The former was rather turbid, but should be ok after it's cleaned up/

W-45 does not seem to behave quite as it did four years ago. I don't recall that it was unusually revertible, but both of our cultures now show this propensity. The Yale stock, in particular, has accumulated a modifier for a slow fermentation of lactose, which becomes apparent after 36 to 48 hours on EMB lactose agar. Our stock throws Lac+ rather readily, but it should be possible to hold on to good inocula by conducting the final isolations on nutrient agar rather than EMB.

It seems likely that the discrepancies in our accounts of the residual lactase activity can be explained in terms of the divergence of our stocks.

I asked before for W-327 and 328. These have now been recovered here. The silica gel method still looks good. However, it seems advisable to use at least 20 parts by weight of the silica per volume of aqueous suspension added. Have you tried it yet with Neurospora at all?

Have you any information on the nature and history of Y-161?

Esther and I enjoyed your visit very much— try it again sometime.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg